

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 (ISO) W

-----180240Z 099312 /13

R 170934Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7286

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, LY, XF

SUBJECT: MINDANAO DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MANILA 3778

SUMMARY: MARCOS HAS ANNOUNCED FURTHER ADJUSTMENT OF PLEBISCITE DATE FROM APRIL 21 TO APRIL 17. MNLF SPOKESMAN HAS PLEDGED NOT TO VIOLATE CEASEFIRE. HE SAID MNLF WOULD BOYCOTT BUT NOT INTERFERE WITH PLEBISCITE. AFP HAS ANNOUNCED INITIAL EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS WITH MNLF. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SOME CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH ARE SELLING PROPERTY AND FLEEING NORTHWARDS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 16, PRESIDENT MARCOS ORDERED READJUSTMENT OF PLEBISCITE DATE FROM APRIL 21 TO APRIL 17. HE SAID THIS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT REACHED IN TRIPOLI FOR ONE MONTH POSTPONEMENT (FROM EARLIER DATE OF MARCH 17).

2. NO SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION YET RELEASED RE TRIPOLI NEGOTIATIONS. MANILA PRESS OF MARCH 16 REPORTED MRS. MARCOS CONFERRED FOR THREE HOURS WITH QADHAFI AND TWO HOURS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AL TREKI. SHE REPORTEDLY

INVITED LIBYAN CHAIRMAN TO VISIT MINDANAO TO SEE SITUATION FOR HIMSELF. DISPATCH IN MARCH 17 DAILY BULLETIN FROM ITS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MERELY REPORTS THAT SHE RECEIVED COURTESY CALL FROM CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL PEOPLES' COMMITTEE AND SAW FILM ON LIFE OF PROPHET AFTER "UNEVENTFUL" DAY MARCH 15.

3. MARCH 16 DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH MNLF DELEGATION HEAD MANJOORSA IN ZAMBOANGA IN WHICH HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR "MEETING OF MINDS" IN TRIPOLI; B) MNLF WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE CEASEFIRE DESPITE "RECESS" IN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IT WOULD BE "ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER" IF MNLF CEASEFIRE DELEGATES RECALLED TO TRIPOLI; C) MNLF WILL BOYCOTT PROPOSED PLEBISCITE, BUT NOT INTERFERE WITH OR DISTURB IT. ANY VIOLENCE WOULD BE DUE TO ACTION OF "THIRD FORCE," (I.E. BANDITS). MANJOORSA SAID ALL MNLF COMMANDERS WOULD BE ORDERED TO CONFINE TROOPS ON DAY OF PLEBISCITE; D) RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT CHARGES OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, MONJOORSA SAID THAT MNLF HAD STOPPED RECRUITING NEW TROOPS. HE SAID THAT TRAINING ACTIVITIES CONTINUED, BUT THAT THIS NOT A VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT.

4. ACCORDING PRESS, UNDERSECRETARY DEFENSE BARBERO MET WITH MANJOORSA MARCH 15 AND SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED REPORTS OF ACTIVE HOSTILITIES BETWEEN MNLF AND GOVERNMENT. AFP CHIEF OF STAFF ESPINO REPORTED REAFFIRMING THAT AFP WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE SEASEFIRE. ACCORDING TO MARCH 16 PRESS, FIRST "EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS" TOOK PLACE RECENTLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN WHICH KIDNAPPED SON OF MAYOR OF SIASI, SULU, WAS SWAPPED FOR FOUR REBEL COURIERS. ACCORDING SAME REPORTS, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN "NO RESPONSE" AS YET FROM MNLF TO CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT PROVISION FOR AMNESTY AND SURRENDER OF ARMS.

5. SITUATION IN SOUTH CONTINUES TENSE. CONSULATE CEBU HAS HEARD FROM RECENT ARRIVAL S THAT SOME CHRISTIAN SETTLERS ARE SELLING PROPERTY AND MOVING NORTHWARDS. EMBASSY CANNON CONFIRM ACTUAL EXTENT OF PROPERTY SALES/EXODUS. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, PRISONER EXCHANGE, REFERENDUMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770350/aaaabrcm.tel
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP, LY, XF, MNLF, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
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